

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following abstract to the end of the application:

A phoretic display device comprising a plurality of electrophoretic or magnetophoretic cells, each having a phoretic particle dispersed within a suspension medium comprising a liquid crystal material. The phoretic cell is adapted to induce defects, sometimes known as disclinations, in the alignment of the liquid crystal material within the cell which act to exert a retentive force on the phoretic particle when within the region of influence of the defects. The configuration of the display introduces a threshold level in the electric or magnetic field required to move the phoretic particle between defects within the cell. Accordingly, the non-linear electro-optic or magneto-optic behaviour of the display facilitates matrix addressing of the cells therein. The display may comprise a plurality of prolate spheroid phoretic cells arranged in an encapsulant, the major (long) axis of each cell arranged substantially perpendicular to the plane of the display.